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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
De YE et al.)
Serial No. 09/701,023) Examiner: David T. Fox
Filed: June 18, 2001) Group Art Unit: 1638
For: CONTROL OF SPOROCTE OR)
MEIOCTE FORMATION IN)
PLANTS)

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In an Office Action dated August 20, 2002, the period for responding to which has been extended by two months, the examiner asserted that the above-referenced patent application contains more than one invention which are not so linked as to form a single generic concept under PCT Rule 13.1 and requested that the Applicants elect one of the following inventions for initial prosecution on the merits:

Group I, claims 1-6, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23 and 25-27, drawn to wild-type genes participating in meiocyte formation and methods for their use and plants transformed therewith;

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Group II, claims 7-9, 16, 20, 24, 28-36 and 40, drawn to mutated genes participating in meiocyte formation and methods for their use, and plants transformed therewith;

Group III, claim 10, drawn to wild-type proteins participating in meiocyte formation;

Group IV, claim 11, drawn to antibodies;

Group V, claim 12, drawn to fusion proteins;

Group VI, claims 37 and 41-44, drawn to oligonucleotide probes;

Group VII, claims 38-39, drawn to a method of in vivo mutagenesis; and

Group VIII, claims 45-53, drawn to promoters from genes participating in meiocyte formation ligated to foreign genes, methods for their use, and plants transformed therewith.

Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 1-6, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23 and 25-27, for initial prosecution on the merits.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of Group I are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

By Barbara G Ernst
Barbara G. Ernst
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 30,377
ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, p.c.
Suite 800, 1425 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 783-6040